

here in the people's House with me. Insufferable fans though they are, on balance they are pretty good folks. Meanwhile, go Marlin's.

WAXMAN AMENDMENT ON H.R. 3289

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, the company from which Vice President CHENEY, the sitting Vice President of the United States, the company from which he continues to draw \$13,000 a month, Halliburton, is back in the headlines.

The latest example of impropriety from the Vice President's company comes in the form of price-gouging gasoline in Iraq at the expense of American taxpayers. Halliburton is overcharging United States citizens, as reported in *The New York Times*, as reported in studies, to the tune of \$250 million, money we are not spending on prescription drugs for seniors, money we are not spending on education, money we are not spending on highways. Halliburton is overcharging U.S. citizens \$250 million, a ploy that independent experts have termed simply "highway robbery."

Here is how their scheme works: Halliburton procures gasoline that they generally get from Kuwait, gasoline that can be bought in the Persian Gulf for 71 cents a gallon. It could be transported to Iraq for no more than 25 cents per gallon. It is brought to the United States, to New York Harbor, for under a dollar. So they buy it for 71 cents; they transport it to Iraq for 25 cents. That brings the total to 96 cents a gallon. Halliburton then adds on its profit margin 2 to 7 percent, bringing the price total to \$1.03 a gallon. Yet Halliburton charges the Federal Government, the government where DICK CHENEY is the Vice President, the government where the Vice President, DICK CHENEY, used to work for Halliburton and still gets \$13,000 a month from Halliburton, Halliburton charges our government, us taxpayers, between \$1.62 and \$1.72, an extra 60 or 70 cents per gallon, a profit margin of over 55 percent. That is the \$250 million which independent experts have called highway robbery from Halliburton.

To add insult to injury, the American taxpayer subsidizes that cost when it is sold to the Iraqi people for between a nickel and 15 cents a gallon.

My constituents in northeast Ohio remember seeing gas prices skyrocket the afternoon of September 11, 2001, as some gas station owners sought to make profit from a national tragedy. It did not work for them when they tried that kind of war profiteering. Unfortunately, it is working for Halliburton, and my constituents are outraged that Halliburton is making money at our taxpayers' expense ultimately from a national tragedy.

The Bush administration has asked for an additional \$2 billion for the Iraqi oil sector. One billion of that would go to buying gasoline, cooking gas, kerosene, and diesel fuel for Iraq; and it costs about \$4 million a day. Halliburton will continue to pocket outrageous, some might say corrupt, profits.

All taxpayers bear the burden of unbid contracts, of price hikes, of inadequate supplies for our troops in Iraq. We are spending \$1 billion a week in Iraq. That number will go up as Congress just appropriated last week \$87 billion more for Iraq, as we had already appropriated \$70 billion before that. We are spending \$1 billion a week. A third of that money is going to private contractors. A lot of that money goes to Halliburton and Bechtel, companies close to the President. Companies which are major contributors to the President of the United States in those unbid contracts simply are not accountable.

At the same time, this administration has not been able to supply and to provide for our troops. Not enough safe drinking water for our troops. Too many of them have come down with dysentery. Not enough body armor, Kevlar jackets for our troops. One quarter of them do not have body armor. The administration has said by December, even though they knew they were going to war a year ago, they would finally get the body armor to our troops. All of that against the backdrop of \$1 billion a week, \$300 million of that going to unbid contracts to companies like Halliburton. And, again, understand, Mr. Speaker, Halliburton is still paying \$13,000 a month to the Vice President of the United States.

The private contractors seem to have all the money and supplies they want, but our troops do not. Something is wrong with this picture.

The gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN) offered an amendment to cure this gasoline gouging problem, this highway robbery problem where Halliburton has taken \$250 million extra from U.S. taxpayers. I cannot understand how Members of this body can support Halliburton as it continues to gouge the U.S. taxpayers. In almost a party-line vote, this House of Representatives rejected the amendment that would have stopped the abuses from Halliburton from the Vice President's company, that would have stopped this highway robbery.

The administration continues to give Halliburton a free hand to exploit American taxpayers for every last dime they could get. Halliburton should be ashamed. This Congress should be ashamed. The administration should be ashamed for that kind of a ripoff of U.S. tax dollars especially in wartime.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair

declares the House in recess until 10 a.m. today.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 13 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 10 a.m.

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AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BASS) at 10 a.m.

PRAYER

The Reverend Tom Nelson, Senior Pastor, Denton Bible Church, Denton, Texas, offered the following prayer:

Could we pray. Our Father in Heaven, You created us. Your law, the edict of Thy very nature is our protection and our guide. Your benevolence continually sustains us. Your grace hath protected us always in the defense of the weak. Guide now these men and women to steer a clear path and to guide our Nation amidst the obstacles of our day. Grant them discernment to perceive the true, the courage to stand in it, and mercy to administer it to all.

And in so doing, may You be pleased and may You lift up the light of Thy countenance upon us. For Your pleasure is our solitary good and our confidence. May evil be winnowed at this our gate and may the sun of Thy favor rise upon us. For it is in Thy saving name that we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING THE REVEREND TOM NELSON, GUEST CHAPLAIN

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, today is a special day for me and a special day for this House to have our deliberations blessed by the Reverend Tom Nelson.

Born in 1950 in Waco, Texas, Tom grew up in a family of four boys. For higher education, he chose the University of North Texas, my alma mater, where he graduated in 1973.

Reverend Nelson received his calling to the Ministry early and entered Dallas Theological Seminary from 1977 to 1982 while he was Associate Pastor at Denton Bible Church. He has been pastoring at Denton Bible Church for 25 years and is presently the Senior Pastor.

Some of his outreach has included being a national speaker for the Fellowship of National Athletes and active leader for Campus Crusade for Christ and the Navigators.

In the past 15 years, Tom has built Denton Bible Church into one of the largest congregations in north Texas. Besides the four Sunday services at Denton Bible Church, Tom disciples 30-plus young men each year. The program includes ministry, evangelism, and service and meets four times a week. Tom also teaches two men's bible studies, one on Tuesdays in Lewisville at Lakeland Baptist Church and one on Wednesdays at Denton Bible Church. At home in Highland Village, I have attended his Tuesday bible study. His messages are powerful and prepare us well to go out into the playing field of life.

He has authored three books, "The Big Picture," "The Book of Romance," and, "The Problem of Life With God," a commentary on the Book of Ecclesiastes. He is also the teacher for three video series and his taped messages travel throughout the world.

His wife, Teresa, is his best friend and secretary. Their older son, Benjamin, and his wife Amanda, live in Lewisville, Texas, and have just made them the proud grandparents of a baby boy, Thomas Clark. Their other son, John Clark, played baseball for the University of Kansas Jayhawks, and has gone on to play professional baseball with the St. Louis Cardinals.

I am honored the Reverend Tom Nelson could be with us here today. I know his blessing will make us more respectful in our debates, more careful in our deliberations, and more accountable for our decisions.

STARVATION IS AN INHUMANE WAY TO DIE

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, death by dehydration is a painful, agonizing, and arduous process that takes 10 to 14 days. In addition to feeling the pangs of hunger and thirst, the skin, lips, and tongue crack, the nose bleeds because of the drying of the mucus membranes, heaving and vomiting may ensue because of the drying out of the stomach lining, and the victim may experience seizures.

Compared to starvation and dehydration, death by hanging, firing squad, or even the electric chair seems humane. But right now that death sentence is being carried out not against murderers, rapists, and child molesters, but

on one of the most disabled in our midst.

Terri Schiavo is not on a respirator or any artificial life-support equipment. Any reasonable person who sees this woman reacting to her parents will realize she is not in a coma or, as is sometimes called, a persistent vegetative state.

Have we, as a Nation, become so callous that we have bought into the "quality of life" argument that some people simply are not worth the effort to protect and rehabilitate? I hope not.

SUPPORT BILL TO ELIMINATE TAX SHELTERS

(Mr. EMANUEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the members of the other Chamber for introducing bipartisan legislation to shut down abusive accounting tax shelters costing U.S. taxpayers over \$18 billion every year and leaving middle-class Americans to pick up the tab.

Fairness and economic growth should be synonymous with the tax code. That is why I will introduce companion legislation to eliminate the way firms market tax shelters to their audit clients. This bill will eliminate tax shelters created by the accounting firms selling "tax advice" directly to publicly-traded companies whose books they regularly audit. As today's hearing on tax shelters in the other body will show, this process makes a mockery of auditor independence and creates irreconcilable conflicts of interest for auditors.

Mr. Speaker, the economic principle of transparency and the American value of accountability are essential to economic growth. These abusive accounting schemes do neither, burdening the middle class and slowing down our economic recovery. I am proud to support this real reform to get real results.

PLIGHT OF TERRI SCHINDLER SCHIAVO

(Mr. SMITH of New Jersey asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, Terry Schiavo smiles, tries to talk to her family and friends, and moves her arms and legs on command. But at the direction of her husband, and against the will of the rest of the family, her feeding tube was removed last Wednesday.

This is what Terri is experiencing right now in this, the 7th day of her court-ordered dehydration and starvation: Extreme thirst, nausea and stomach cramping, dry skin, dizziness, extreme headaches, cramping in her arms and legs because she is losing electrolytes, sodium and potassium in her

blood. Her mouth is very dry. Her saliva is thick.

And as the abuse continues, soon her lips and her mouth will crack, she will bleed, and her heart rate will increase, her blood pressure will drop, and she will probably experience stroke. She will finally go into shock as her whole body begins to shut down.

No one, Mr. Speaker, deserves to be treated with such incredible cruelty. Terri's life is valuable and she should not be sentenced to death because she has a disability or someone feels she is a burden.

Hopefully, the Florida Legislature will act in time and the Governor will intervene.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: PUBLIC ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GOD IS AN OLD AMERICAN TRADITION

(Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, a steady assault on public religious expression undermines Americans' constitutional right to worship.

The Supreme Court announced it will hear a case alleging the phrase "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance establishes a religion. Not at all. Acknowledging the Creator, in public, is an American tradition, not a religion.

The Declaration of Independence declares that all men were given rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness by their Creator. The Declaration ends with "A firm reliance upon the protection of Divine Providence." Abraham Lincoln at Gettysburg expressed his fervent hope that "This Nation under God shall have a new birth of freedom."

Mr. Speaker, the question before the Supreme Court is whether America's tradition of free expression of religion will continue or be further undermined by a new creed of hostility towards religion. I echo Benjamin Franklin, who requested that prayer begin the Constitutional Convention, and every session of Congress since then, because, as he acknowledged, "God governs in the affairs of men."

GOD IS ON OUR SIDE

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, last week Army Lieutenant General William Boyken was embroiled in controversy over suggesting that in our struggle against the regime of Saddam Hussein, that God was on our side. One commentator on the Fox News Network said, and I am quoting now, "That it is 'folly' to argue that God takes sides on battlefields." It may be wise to ask the question, but as President Lincoln famously said, it is more relevant to ask whether we are on God's side, rather than whether God is on ours."